REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, claims 49-58 and 60-65 will be pending in the application. Claims 49, 52, 55 and 60 have been amended to further clarify the claimed invention, claims 61-65 have been added, and claims 1-48 were previously canceled. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification, such as ¶¶ [0018], [0032], [0037], [0039], and [0041].

Claims 49, 51-56 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,678,366 ("Burger") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,646 ("Tran"). Claim 60 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Burger in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0005412 ("Light") and in further view of Tran. Applicants respectfully submit that Burger, Tran and Light do not disclose every limitation recited in independent claims 49, 52, 60 and 65.

Independent claims 49 and 65 recite, in part, receiving status information regarding a plurality of communication devices from their respective networks, wherein at least two of the plurality of communication devices are each associated with different respective networks in a multi-networked environment.

Independent claims 52 and 60 recite, in part, querying different types of networks in a multi-networked environment for status information, wherein the status information pertains to a plurality of communication devices associated with a user, including at least a first communication device and a second, different communication device, wherein the first communication device is associated with a first network in the multi-network environment and the second communication device is associated with a second, different network in the multi-networked environment; and receiving the status information for the first and second communication devices from the first and second networks.

As noted in the present specification, it is not unusual today for a called party to be associated with several different types of communication devices simultaneously (*Specification* at ¶ [0003]). Moreover, each of the called party's communication devices may be associated with a different type of network (*e.g.*, a home telephone, a cellular phone, and an email address on the Internet) (*Id.*). Thus, even assuming that all of the called party's communication devices are known, it is very cumbersome to have to try each of the

communication devices in an attempt to reach the called party (*Id.*). Accordingly, in one embodiment of the claimed invention, a unified presence information system ("UPIS") 200 is configured to communicate with different types of networks, thereby exchanging with the different types of networks the status information of the communications devices connected to those networks (*Id.* at ¶ [0017]). UPIS 200 can then use the status information of the communication devices to increase the likelihood of locating the called party at one of the called party's communication devices (*Id.*).

Burger discloses an enhanced service platform 100 for locating a subscriber to a telephony service at any one of a number of telephone numbers associated with the subscriber and directing a call to the subscriber (Burger at col. 2, ll. 63-66; col. 8, ll. 27-29). The enhanced service platform 100 includes a telephone call manager 114 for providing the telephony services to the subscriber, a switch fabric 102 for directing an inbound telephone call 402, and a database module 118 for storing subscriber information (*Id.* at col. 4, ll. 25-27, 61-62, and 65). More specifically, in response to the inbound telephone call 402, the telephone call manager module 114 determines whether there is a Best Guess Location (BGL) that should be used to locate the subscriber (*Id.* at col. 8, ll. 40-43). If a valid BGL exists, the telephone call manager module 114 will call the BGL and validate a telephone connection 408 if the call is answered (*Id.* at col. 9, ll. 50-52). If a valid BGL does not exist, or the first telephone connection 408 is not validated, the telephone call manager 114 will use a telephone number selection protocol 420 to select an available subscriber telephone number 312 having the highest weight according to a configuration 314 (*Id.* at col. 10, ll. 3-7).

The weight in the configuration 314 is stored in a history database 320, which is a two-dimensional data array that is maintained by the database module 118 and that contains subscriber telephone numbers 312 and time intervals 324 (*Id.* at col. 6, ll. 46-51). The weight assigned to each subscriber telephone number 312 can be a function of the frequency with which completed telephone calls between the enhanced service platform 100 and the subscriber are made during particular time intervals 324 (*Id.* at col. 7, ll. 1-5). After the execution of the telephone number selection protocol 420, a telephone call 422 is placed to each subscriber telephone number 312 selected by the telephone number selection protocol 420 (*Id.* at col. 10, ll. 26-29). If any telephone connection 422 is validated, a call connect protocol 430 is initiated, whereby the telephone call manager module 114 directs the inbound

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telephone call 402 to the validated telephone connection and updates the history database 320 to reflect a successful connection 502 (*Id*. at col. 4, ll. 25-27; col. 10, ll. 29-32; col. 11, ll. 14-18).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Burger does not disclose receiving status information regarding a plurality of communication devices from different respective networks in a multi-networked environment (see claims 49 and 63), or querying different types of networks in a multi-networked environment for the status information (see claims 52 and 60) because, as noted above, the telephone call manager 114 calls the selected subscriber telephone number 312 via the switch fabric 102, validates the telephone connection if the call is answered, and updates the history database 320 accordingly. Thus, the information stored in the history database 320 is derived from the enhanced service platform 100, and is not provided by a communications network, such as a packet switched network 154.

Tran discloses a method of providing real-time call-treatment instructions from a user to a network handling an incoming call to the user's mobile station (MS) (Tran at col. 1, ll. 65-67; col. 2, ll. 1-2). In particular, the method includes sending call information regarding the incoming call from a mobile switching center (MSC) to the user's MS, activating a browser in the MS to display the call information and call-treatment options, registering a call treatment option selected by the user, sending the selected call-treatment option from the MS to the MSC and then to a network service node, and routing the incoming call in accordance with the selected call-treatment option (*Id*. at col. 2, ll. 2-12). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Tran does not disclose the use of status information at all, much less receiving status information from different respective networks (see claims 49 and 65), or querying different types of networks for the status information (see claims 52 and 60).

Light discloses a system and method for obtaining the telephone status (*i.e.*, on-hook/off-hook) of a called party's telephone over a network, such as the Internet (Light at ¶ [0036]). In one embodiment, a calling party can access a telephone status file 8 via the Internet 10 using a personal computer 12 (*Id*.). The telephone status file 8 is continually updated by a telephone status monitor 6, which constantly monitors a series of telephones 2, 3, and 4 (*Id*.). The telephone status is provided to the calling party and if the called party's telephone line status is in an on-hook condition, the calling party can dial the called party (*Id*. at ¶¶ [0043] and [0044]).

In another embodiment, Light discloses a personal computer 20 that can connect to the Internet 102 to ascertain the status of wireless telephones 112, 114, and 118 (*Id*. at [0046]). A query concerning the status proceeds through a wireless application protocol (WAP) interface 106 to a wireless network 108, and then to a wireless network manager 110 (*Id*.). The wireless network manager 110 records which wireless telephones are engaged in an active telephone call and sends the information back to personal computer 20 (*Id*.). Accordingly, in either embodiment, the system in Light receives status information from a single type of communication device associated with a single type of network (*i.e.*, a wired telephone in a private branch exchange (PBX) and a wireless telephone in a wireless network). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Light does not disclose receiving status information regarding a plurality of communication devices from different respective networks (see claims 49 and 65), or querying different types of networks in a multi-networked environment for the status information of the plurality of communication devices (see claims 52 and 60).

Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Burger in view of Tran and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,737 ("Ely"). Claim 57 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Burger in view of Tran and in further view of Light. Claims 50 and 57 depend from claims 49 and 52, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 50 and 57 are patentable for at least the same reasons noted above. Moreover, Ely discloses a customer contact services node/Internet gateway for connecting a user to services and information from a provider via the Internet (Ely at Abstract). Therefore, Applicants further submit that Ely does not cure the deficiencies of Burger, Tran and Light with respect to independent claim 49, 52, 60 and 65.

Finally, Applicants submit that none of the cited references disclose the claim limitations in newly added dependent claims 63 and 64, which depend from claim 52. More specifically, claim 63 recites, in part, wherein the first communication device includes a personal computer, and wherein the second communication device includes one of a telephone, cellular phone, and set-top box. Claim 64 recites, in part, wherein the first communication device includes a set-top box, and wherein the second communication device includes one of a telephone, cellular phone, and personal computer.

As noted above, Tran discloses a method of providing real-time call-treatment instructions to a network from a user's mobile station, and Ely discloses a customer contact services node/Internet gateway for connecting a user to services and information from a provider via the Internet. Therefore, neither reference discloses the use of status information of communication devices at all. Light discloses status information associated with wired and wireless telephone devices and does not disclose status information associated with a personal computer or set-top box (*i.e.*, the first communication device recited in claims 63 and 64, respectively).

Burger notes that the "present invention is also applicable to other types of real time communication systems, such as voice over Internet type 'telephone' connections [and] video/audio communications systems using Internet or other data network connections" (Burger at col. 12, ll. 14-21). "In these systems, each subscriber would have a main IP address that is directed to a call/connection management system that then redirects each inbound connection request to one of a list of IP addresses associated with the subscriber" (*Id.* at col. 12, ll. 21-25). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the portions of Burger cited above disclose directing calls over different networks, and not querying and receiving status information from a network associated with a first communication device that includes a personal computer or set-top box.

Moreover, Applicants submit that Burger does not disclose that a single enhanced service platform 100 can interface with the different systems (*e.g.*, a audio/video communications system *and* a packet switched network 154) simultaneously. Rather, Burger suggests that the enhanced service platform 100 is applicable to each system individually (*e.g.*, can be used with a audio/video communications system *or* the packet switched network 154). Thus, Burger does not disclose querying a first network for status information pertaining to a personal computer or set-top box associated with the first network, and querying a second network for status information pertaining to a second, different communication device associated with the second, different network (see claim 63 and 64).

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 49, 52, 60 and 65, and dependent claims 63 and 64, patentably define over the cited references and are, therefore, allowable. As claims 50 and 51 depend from claim 49, and claims 53-58, 61-64 depend from claim 52, Applicants further submit that the dependent

claims are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Reconsideration of the

Office Action and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the

Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to

contact the undersigned attorney, Christos A. Ioannidi at (215) 564-8994, to discuss

resolution of any remaining issues.

<div align="center">Respectfully submitted,</div>

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